Case No.: 56336US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

amed Inventor:

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

HOPCUS, ERNEST A.

Application No.:

10/036993

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

December 31, 2001

Examiner:

Title:

REMOVABLE CORE FOR PRE-STRETCHED TUBE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,

Washington, DC 20231 on:

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

If a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed prior to the mailing date of this document, please charge the fee for consideration of an Information Disclosure Statement set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. If necessary, please charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company

P.O. Box 33427

St. Paul, MN 55133-3427 Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833 By: Darla P. Fonseca, Reg. No. 31,783

Telephone No.: 512-984-3578